

April-May

1954

B. HONDURAS SHAKES LYTTTELTON

THE prospect of a people's victory in British Honduras in elections planned for April 28th has sent Lyttelton—watchdog of British imperialism—into a fit.

Fearing victory by the popular People's United Party, Lyttelton has decided to take action before the elections this time instead of after, by sending to Honduras a one-man commission named Sir Reginald Sharpe.

Hair-raising stories

This gentleman was sent ostensibly to investigate what links the P.U.P. has with Guatemala and Communism. The "impartial" commissioner has reported after one week's investigation, supporting the charges which prompted his dispatch to Honduras—namely, that the P.U.P. is under the influence of Guatemala and receives money from Guatemala.

Reports have appeared in the British press recently making allegations that the P.U.P. received £15,000 from Guatemala for financing its election campaign.

All that Sir Reginald has been able to produce so far, however, is the allegation that Mr. Price, Secretary of the P.U.P., received £500 from the Guatemalan

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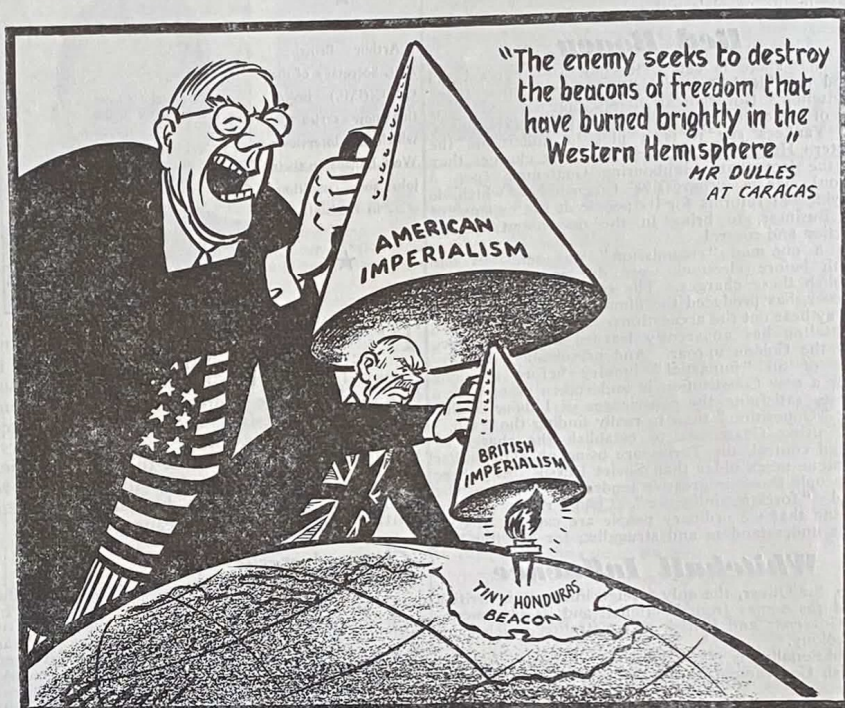
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THE DESTROYERS

JAGAN HELD *Trinidad Party* Raided

GEORGETOWN.

FOR leaving the restricted area of Georgetown to which he has been confined under emergency regulations, Cheddi Jagan, deposed Premier of Guiana, was arrested in Mahaicony where he had gone to earn his livelihood as a dentist.

Dr. Jagan has dental clinics outside Georgetown, and although permission was asked to visit these, it was refused.

After being released on bail he was again arrested and denied bail on the grounds that a demonstration had been held following his release.

Dr. Jagan has denied responsibility for the spontaneous procession of supporters.

Mrs. Janet Jagan has also been arrested. Rory Westmaas, Martin Carter and five others are being held without bail.

These unnecessary attacks on leaders of the P.P.P. are seen as an attempt by the Government to restrict the party's activity among the people, while not actually outlawing it in the legal sense.

Protest strikes on several sugar estates indicate the wide support that exists for the Party.

Port-of-Spain, 7.454.

POLICE today raided the headquarters of the West Indian Independence Party with all the drama of a dawn attack, that is before working people had started their day's business.

Simultaneously, six other private addresses were raided and attempts are being made to frighten the thousands of members that are now joining the W.I.I.P.

Veteran trade union leader Jim Barrett was manacled by seven vicious police.

Barrett, Executive member of the W.I.I.P., who from 1937 has been respected by both employed and unemployed as a militant trade unionist, is the main target owing to his unswerving faith in the democratic rights and civil liberties of all Trinidadians.

★ EDITORIAL ★

BRITISH HONDURAS

WHEN are elections to be free and when are they not to be free? The British Government has a double-faced answer to this question, depending on whether the results, they feel, will favour imperialism or the interests of the people.

Foreign Minister Mr. Anthony Eden at the Berlin Conference boldly expressed the unflinching stand of Britain for free elections in Germany, believing that the results would be favourable to German rearmament.

While Eden, however, was so self-righteously upholding the principle of "free" elections (with occupation forces still present), his Government was coolly disfranchising the Guianese people, nullifying their free elections and putting in the place of the freely elected Government a government of nominated persons.

So much for our faith in the value of pious declarations on the principle of free elections by the British Government.

Now comes the turn of British Honduras with its 70,000 people to have free elections (limited by a small signature test). But the Government and big business Press believe that the People's United Party will win a big majority. And they conclude that this is not good for British imperialism.

Also, the Yankee self-styled benefactors of the Western Hemisphere (extending right round to Pakistan) take fright at the prospect of 70,000 people voting for a party which promises to bring improvements in the people's welfare.

Red Bogey

So the stage is set. The plot?—Our good old friend the "Red Bogey", with a slightly new twist. Lyttelton's Government claims that the P.U.P. is part of a Communist plot against British Honduras. The Yankees say it is a plot to undermine the Western Hemisphere. In making these charges they use the fact that neighbouring Guatemala (pop. 3 million) has a progressive Government which is carrying out reforms for its people at the expense of Big Business, to bring in the one about foreign direction and control.

So a one-man "commission" was sent out one month before elections were due in an effort to establish these charges. The commissioner's report, however, has produced the flimsiest of facts which in no way bear out the accusations.

Lyttelton has apparently learned a thing or two from the Guiana uproar. And presumably, the presence of an "impartial" inquiry before elections under a new Constitution is undertaken more with a view to satisfying the consciences of Labour Right-wing "Opposition" than to really finding the truth.

By using Guatemala to establish the charge of foreign control, the Tories are using an old familiar technique much older than Soviet Russia. Anywhere the people show progressive tendencies there must be found "foreign influence". Our rulers cannot imagine that we ordinary people are capable of ourselves understanding and struggling for a better life.

Whitehall Influence

No, Sir Oliver, the only foreign influence in British Honduras comes from Whitehall and its placemen—the Governor and British administration which rules the colony.

Additionally is the influence exercised on the British Government by Washington through bellicose Dulles.

Let all our people realise that this attack on Honduras, following so closely the attack on Guiana, is no isolated incident. It is the working out of a pattern by which British Imperialism says to the West Indian people—"we will not allow you to advance any further to independence; we aim to keep you in the colonial empire for our profits and will use every method including armed force and violence to do it!"

In face of this outright brutal British policy there can be no middle way of hoping that by ceasing to struggle against it, imperialism will, out of its good sweet nature, grant concessions leading eventually to full independence.

Only two roads remain open. One road leads to firm opposition to the imperialist onslaught by the whole West Indies. The other leads to betrayal and acceptance of the status quo.

Every West Indian leader will be judged by whether he takes the first road or the second road. Leaders like Cheddi Jagan who resolutely take the first course reap the slander and persecution of the Lytteltons, but win the undying gratitude of their people. They are the real patriots of the West Indies.

Britain's moves against Honduras must be seen in the totality of its attacks on the people's democratic movements in Guiana, and more recently Jamaica and St. Vincent, in an extending development as the people grow stronger.

The whole West Indies must rally to support the Hondurans.

For free elections in British Honduras!
Apply the New Constitution!
Hands off the People's United Party!

AMERICAN SCHEMES SOUTH OF THE BORDER

CARACAS, VENEZUELA. Nineteen Latin Central American states took part here in an Inter-American Conference which opened on March 1st. Costa-Rica was the single notable abstention, reported as an official protest against the Facist rule of the Government of Venezuela.

Today, over 200,000 political prisoners are perishing in filthy Venezuelan jails.

Mr. John Foster Dulles, United States Secretary of State, supported by Mr. John Cabot, former U.N.O. representative, forced their way there to put pressure on Latin America, and secure them in the camp of War. The facade was to be a united anti-Communist front, based on the Monroe doctrine. Bait provided was the promise of "economic aid".

The task was not an easy one. Through the confusion and babel of political dogma that exists here, there is overriding support for ANTI-COLONIALISM. How well this was borne out as the Agenda progressed!

When Mr. J. Narine Singh, of the P.P.P. of Guiana arrived, it was easy to understand his welcome and appreciate the possible support he would receive as a result of his Party's staunch actions against Britain's Big Business.

West Indians in British Industry

★
Arthur Brown,
Asst. Secretary of the
C.L.C.(L.B.) begins
this new series in
which he interviews
West Indians on their
jobs and conditions
in England



★
To grasp some idea of the part West Indians are playing in British Industry it is essential to ascertain the reason for their influx in such large numbers. It is often maintained that West Indians first took their place in British Industry during and after the First World War, but because of the small number involved then and the fact that they were mostly unskilled, it can be said that their contribution was by no means great.

Changed status

During the Second World War, however, the position was completely changed. West Indians in their own countries had developed some degree of skill, especially in the engineering industry. It was significant that when Britain, in her greatest need for technicians, called upon the colonial peoples, among the first to respond were the West Indians. But today, West Indians in this country will admit, their status has been changed from one of "Welcome, brothers", to that of "When are you going home, Darkie?"

Of course this position has not arisen from the West Indian's failure to maintain his technical skill (a skill which has been praised both by members of the Government and employers) but by the failure of the British ruling class to find markets for their products in the face of growing German and Japanese competition, the result of which is unemployment.

Failure to recognise the class nature of the struggle, and succumbing to the boss-inspired fears of unemployment, many British people indulge in racial grading. They do not realise that at the same time they are playing into the hands of the boss, thus worsening an already delicate situation.

Cold shoulder

Hear what G. G. Brown, from Jamaica, employed in the engineering industry, has to say on the question:

"I find it rather hard to say whether or not my relationship with my English fellow-workers have improved during my five-and-a-half years employment in the British engineering industry.

"It is, however, noticeable that the hospitality of the average English person during peace-time is not as warm as was showered on me during the war years. Why? I do not know. It makes me think."

That is the general feeling of most West Indians in British Industry.

FUTILE TACTIC

Some states after being ceaselessly besieged with U.S. capitalist propaganda, had planned to support opposition to U.S.A. demands, as a tactic, and then concede later when the inevitable technique of bribery was operated. This proved quite futile against the past masters of intrigue and corruption.

Instead, Guatemala and Bolivia gained much respect for their first stand and united support for the real independence of Latin American states. This put the Washington spokesmen on the spot and left them on a crest of uncertainty.

PINCERS ELUDED

Argentina presented other problems. With its vast developing agriculture and mineral resources, its recent trade agreement with the U.S.S.R., this was an adversary to be contended with. The Trade agreement provides a large measure of independence from the United States of America.

The avaricious claws of the Yankee eagle had been thus frustrated and the Wall Street boys had to scratch around for another weapon to control this strengthened economic rival.

U.S. SQUIRM

Senor Toriello, the Foreign Minister of Guatemala, invoked the anger of Foster Dulles when he asked for a definition of Communism. This drew thunderous rounds of applause from delegates whose glee was undisguised at seeing the U.S. monsters squirm.

But to keep pace with Guatemala's leadership meant much more preparatory work at home before attending such conferences.

Dulles' counter action, was, to promise an undated economic conference for Washington with Latin American representatives.

ANTI-COLONIALISM

Unpredictable Panama added to the rout of the "colossus of the north", by successfully piloting an amendment to Dulles' resolution. Senor Remon wished to condemn all racial discrimination and use any infringement as a reason for united action against any aggressor. Support here was as marked as when Guatemala mocked Dulles. In fact, it was less inhibited, as U.S. propaganda always has to pay lip-service to anti-colour bar and anti-colonialism.

Sharpe Profile

WHO is Sir Reginald Sharpe? What manner of man that needs an escort of Her Majesty's warship "Sheffield"?

Let me introduce Sir Reginald Sharpe, Q.C., lone Commissioner of Enquiry appointed by Mr. Oliver Lyttelton, M.P., to decide the fate of British Honduras under the Union Jack.

Sir Reginald Sharpe, Q.C., is a very well qualified Divorce Court judge. He is also well experienced in British Colonial life, having served with distinctions the British Government in Burma, from 1937-48, prior to its realisation of Independence.

In the Who's Who, Sir Reginald's club is given as the East India and Sports.

Its membership, we are told, is recruited mainly from former Indian Civil Servants, the English Colonial Office servants of Malaya, but more recently the same types occupied on similar duties in the Union of South Africa.

A very worthy background from which to assess long-handedly the associations of the People's Party in British Honduras.

Yes, we have a lot to learn from such men of eminence. For example, "What is learned counsel's opinion on a situation where a single commissioner appointed by the British Government, sits enquiring on the activities of a Party committed to a policy of rejecting British rule, while the British Government's ship-of-war looms across the overlooking bay?"

BIG GUIANA SWINDLE

PLANS were announced in the British House of Commons today by Mr. Lyttelton for the so-called expenditure of £15 million in Guiana.

He admitted that he was grateful to the World Bank for their advice and even hinted in reply to Mr. Roland Robinson, Conservative M.P., Director of B.G. Consolidated Gold Fields, that there was a possibility of obtaining capital investment from "outside"—which spells U.S.A.!

Lyttelton said the cost over the next 5 years would be no less than £15 million. The detailed proposals for the next 2 years amounting to £11 million, would be divided as follows: £3 million for transport and communications, £2 million for agriculture and forestry, £2 million for social development, £2 millions for modernising of sugar estate ranges and finally £1 million for agricultural and industrial credits through a credit corporation.

Same stew

This is the same old stew served up in Jamaica in 1946 and 1947 in the period of the Creech-Jones-Griffiths dictatorship.

Unemployment there has not abated and high prices continue to sky-rocket.

The P.P.P. set out its programme for development and Guianese overwhelmingly supported it—to the extent of winning 18 out of 24 seats in the election. The Great Dictator has now spoken and his Labour predecessor (Griffiths) has welcomed the proposals. Without the mythical promise of millions of pounds Jagan won popular support. In the developing fight, Lyttelton finds himself versus the people.

Good Fighter for Jamaica

AFTER an absence of six years, Mr. Rolly Simms, ex Vice-President of the Caribbean Labour Congress (London Branch) and former 2nd Vice-President of the League of Coloured Peoples, has returned to his native land (Jamaica) to establish permanent residence.

Born at Kingston, Jamaica on March 24 th, 1927, Rolly, as schooled at the well-known Kingston College which he left to join the R.A.F. in defence of democracy. He spent six years in uniform, qualifying as a Wireless Operator.

Returning home on leave in 1948, the contrast of life in Europe to the sad plight of thousands of jobless Jamaicans and the inactivity of the so-called labour leaders, spurred Rolly to take an interest in politics. Disgusted above all by the crookedness of the local labour leaders who paid lip service to Imperialism, he saw the need for a real working class movement to fight more effectively for federation and self-government.

TIRELESS

Alert and sturdy, this 27-year-old Jamaican has not confined his efforts solely to West Indian activities, but wherever injustices are perpetrated on oppressed peoples he has opposed tyranny.

Last year Rolly's marriage to scholarly Anne Lesser, B.A.(Hons.), London University, brought together two young people with similar political outlooks. English born, Anne is well known within the C.L.C. for her capable efforts.

With the departure of Rolly Simms and his charming wife, our London Branch has lost two of its most ardent workers, but we are consoled by the fact that our loss is Jamaica's gain.

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Mrs. B. Lennard (Jamaica) presenting to Mr. D.N.Pritt Q.C. a token of red roses and carnations in appreciation of his great victory on behalf of the P.P.P. of British Guiana.

The inscribed scroll that was also presented expressed the deep feeling that all West Indians felt when a great Englishman, without reward, joined our ranks in defence of civil rights and civil justice.

Fred Bowman and Nasrudeen of Guiana are now listed alongside Jomo Kenyatta and the Indian peasants of Telengana who have been privileged to be represented by the Great Defender.



B. HONDURAS SHAKES LYTTTELTON

from page 1

Consulate for payment of a fine involving sedition in 1951, and that Mr. Goldson, Editor of the Belize "Billboard", negotiated for supplies of newsprint from Guatemala for his paper.

Despite the flimsiness of the evidence produced, as was to be expected (recall the lack of evidence in the case of Guiana), reports indicate that the New Constitution may still be suspended or action taken against the People's United Party.

At the very least, this move of sending a snooping commissioner to British Honduras just one month before elections must be seen as an attempt to influence the outcome of the elections if held, with a deliberate Whitehall-inspired campaign of witch-hunting.

Britain's rulers are jumping ahead of themselves in fear of democratic elections. The nightmare of British Guiana is closing in on them again, even though the situation differs from Guiana in that Whitehall provides a Constitution which allows only nine elected members out of fifteen in the Legislative Council, while the Executive Council which is intended to be the real instrument of Government allows just two elected members out of seven.

Very Restricted

There will not be the semi-ministerial system as was in Guiana. The elections are also not absolutely under universal adult suffrage, ability to write one's name being a qualification. The P.U.P. has, however, been active in teaching people to write their names.

In addition to the above safeguards, there remain the usual reserve and emergency powers for the Governor.

All this, and Lyttelton still shakes in his boots.

The Party that has inspired all this fear—People's United Party—was formed only in 1950, six months after the birth of the P.P.P. of Guiana. It set itself the task of realising universal adult suffrage and self-government. It is the only organised party in the country.

Popular Party

The P.U.P. is definitely not a Communist party and in no sense can it be compared with anything even resembling a Communist party, Catholicism being a big influence within it. But it is a popular party of the people, supported by the people, and aiming at improvements of conditions of life.

Supporting the party is the General Workers' Union, main trade union body with 9,000 members.

The Belize "Billboard", most popular daily newspaper, publicizes the aims and activities of the party and carries news of interest to the workers.

P.U.P. is fighting against a background of imperialist maintained poverty, disease and unemployment.

Unemployment figures are around 30 per cent of the labour force, with another 30 per cent. not regularly employed.

Cost of living index skyrocketed by 43 per cent when the pound was devalued in 1949. Previously British Honduras currency enjoyed parity with the U.S. dollar.

"Daily Express" (12/1/50) reported: "When it came, it hit the people living in poverty without enough to eat without work and without a sign of things getting better. It sent prices of some staple foods rocketing, because almost everything they eat here is imported".

Most of the non-Europeans suffer from either malaria, typhoid, or pulmonary tuberculosis. A Colonial Office report (No. 281-4) attributes these diseases to nutritional deficiencies.

Rich Country

Infant mortality in 1952 was 85 per 1,000, nearly three times the rate in Britain.

Illiteracy reaches alarming proportions as a result of lack of schools and qualified teachers.

Nevertheless British Honduras is rich in resources, with known deposits of oil under consideration for exploitation by the Gulf Oil Corporation. Tin has also been discovered and is earmarked for intensive imperialist exploitation. Mahogany and chicle (for chewing gum) are the main exports, with sugar, rice, citrus fruits and other crops also produced.

The Belize City Council has been the only elected body in the colony. But in 1950 the Council was dissolved by the Governor, Sir Ronald Garvey, because the Councillors chose to postpone discussion on a motion to hang King George VI's picture in the Chamber, until after they had discussed the rising cost of living as a result of the currency devaluation.

U. S. Influence

It is significant that the efforts to link the P.U.P. with Guatemala coincide with American Secretary of State Dulles' veiled threats against Guatemala at the recently concluded Caracas Conference of Inter-American States.

Dulles made outbursts against what he called "Communism" in the Western Hemisphere and only Guatemala had the courage to oppose him.

Also of significance is the proposed visit of the International Bank mission to British Honduras in June this year, following its trips to Jamaica and Guiana.

Anglo-American imperialism is uniting to snuff out the small degree of liberty of the Honduras people, in attacking their limited Constitution and the People's United Party.

In face of this, every effort will be needed to demand that the people be allowed their right to exercise their vote in choosing the representatives they want, that the P.U.P. be left alone, and no interference be made with the new Constitution or the elections. Let the people have their say!

BIRMINGHAM BUSMEN and the COLOUR-BAR

STRONG protests from Birmingham's coloured population supported by certain sections of the national press were responsible for breaking the colour bar previously adopted by the Transport authorities in the employment of coloured personnel on the city's buses.

Ballot

The issue was highlighted recently when the transport employees were asked by the Birmingham Liberal Organisation to boycott the proposed ballot on the question of the employment of coloured labour. Although this was the first time that people outside Birmingham knew of the crisis, the situation was actually the outcome of continuous representations made by African and Caribbean labour organisations, and the chairman of the City Transport Committee, Alderman Watton, since 1951, with a view to getting eligible coloured persons employed in the service.

When the matter was again raised at the beginning of this year Mr. Harry Green, of the Transport and General Workers' Union, openly declared his union's opposition to the employment of coloured workers. He intimated that a number of white workers threatened to walk out of this was done and further stated that the majority of coloured people in the city were incapable of doing the job.

From **HENRY GUNTER**
member of Birmingham Trades Council and
Secretary, Afro-West Indian Association.



The coloured people through the African and Caribbean labour organisations challenged the statement and a demand for a joint discussion was made. A meeting of members of the Transport Committee, representatives of the Union and a deputation from the coloured people met. Also present was Mr. S. DeSouza, Jamaican Welfare Liaison Officer from the

Colonial Office. Strong arguments from the coloured people's representatives forced the union to reconsider its decision. Eventually the Transport and General Workers' Union in a press statement officially stated that it had no objection to the employment of coloured people as a result of the meeting. The matter was then thrown back into the hands of the Birmingham Transport Committee with the warning: "If you employ them as conductors the responsibility is yours."

'Popularity test'

A ballot was proposed and the T.G.W.U. made it plain that the idea did not originate with them but was put forward by a Sub-Committee of the Transport Committee. Accordingly, the Birmingham Liberal Organisation issued the following statement:

"The intention of both the trades union official concerned and the Corporation Transport Committee which is conniving in the affair is obvious—to make entry of non-Europeans into employment as conductors conditional upon some sort of popularity test.

"As men and women, the non-Europeans have the same right to earn a living as anybody else and the same right to be treated with respect. No vote by anybody is necessary to determine that."

With this announcement, and following on further consultations between the Union and the Corporation Transport Committee, the first batch of coloured conductors were engaged.

Worse jobs

In Birmingham, the second largest industrial city in Britain, live over 18,000 coloured persons, most immigrants from Britain's colonies, and a large percentage are unemployed. Even those who have found employment are relegated to jobs which are familiar to other coloured people throughout Britain—mostly jobs that the British people don't want. Consequently, with a shortage of 943 drivers and conductors on the buses, it was inevitable that the issue would arise, and all those British people who spoke up against the colour bar are to be congratulated.

Nevertheless, notwithstanding the result, the situation has focused attention on the need for everlasting vigilance to ensure that working class solidarity is maintained.

When the Slaves Rebelled — HUNDREDS WERE MASSACRED

— Told with a modern lesson
by **ERIC DESLANDES**

ONE of the most inescapable conclusions arising out of the Guiana crisis is that British colonial policy has not changed.

The lessons of the past—the loss of the North American colonies, and more recently India, Burma, Ceylon—have apparently gone unheeded and the policy of subjugation and persecution still persists.

In Guiana the bogey of Communism and an alleged "plot", still unproved, were used to dispose of the freely and democratically elected people's representatives. In Malaya the people fighting for more political and economic opportunities are called "bandits". In Kenya it is the Mau Mau. What's in a name?

The plain truth is that where dignity strives in men's souls, a race or a people will not be content to remain subjected to an alien power whether by force or diplomacy. What's more, colonials are now not only fighting against the injustices and limitations of imperialism and its policy of exploitation, but are also fighting for political independence.

Exit Racism

Racism becomes less prominent in colonial struggles today. More significant is a new realization of working class solidarity. It was on the basis of this ideology that the People's Progressive Party in Guiana was formed. Because their Government attempted to implement election promises of improving conditions for the masses they are now deposed.

Abrogation of constitutions is not new in the West Indies. As far back as 1865 the people of Jamaica had their Constitution taken away. The story is interesting as it indicates the ceaseless struggles that West Indians have waged against imperialism, even in those early days.

Abolition of chattel slavery in 1838 crippled most of the Jamaican planters, who depended on slave labour. Most Negroes preferred subsistence living on small plots of land rather than on a plantation.

The Island experienced one of the most severe droughts in its history from 1863 to 1865. The Constitution at that time provided for a House of Assembly and an Executive Council presided over by the Crown Governor. Members of the House of Assembly were elected on a franchise restricted to persons of property, and members of the Executive Council were appointed by the governor.

Rising Storm

Resentment grew as the local government and the Crown both turned deaf ears to the clamour of the unfranchised for universal suffrage and more representative administration.

The memorable Morant Bay rebellion was the result. The people had taken enough. A Negro, Paul Bogle, led this rebellion.

The chief magistrate of the parish and members of the parish vestry were killed. The Assembly proclaimed martial law and abrogated the constitution. The military moved in, burned down over one thousand houses and massacred hundreds to discourage further unrest.

But governor Eyre went too far. A member of the House of Assembly, George William Gordon, a mulatto West Indian whose father was a rich British planter, was alleged to have encouraged the workers by speeches he made inside and outside the House of Assembly.

He was illegally taken into the martial law area, given a drumhead court martial and convicted on charges unsupported by the flimsy and illegal evidence adduced. Together with the patriot Paul Bogle, he was hanged in public in Morant Bay.

Crown Colony

In England indignation rose against Governor Eyre's excessive actions. Protests poured into the Colonial Office and the Houses of Parliament with such rapidity, that the Governor was recalled and reduced.

Despite protests from the Labour movement in Britain, the Constitution was nevertheless suspended, and a crown colony government set up. Since Communism was not yet contemplated in Russia, the Red bogey could not fit into the picture.

As these ancestors of Jamaica revolted against oppression, so too today our people in the entire West Indies are again taking up the struggle against unjust tyrants. But now we are stronger and see clearer what we are fighting against.

Now, as then, we hope to find numerous friends in the British labour movement.

Democracy for Guiana and all West Indians

Join the Caribbean Labour Congress (London Branch) and make your voice effective in a way that Lyttelton will understand.

- ★ The C.L.C. stands for Independence for the West Indies and Federation.
- ★ It actively campaigns for these aims politically.
- ★ There are also activities to suit all interests—organised by the Social, Cultural, Youth, and Women's Committees.
- ★ Membership dues are 5/- per year payable either in one sum or in two instalments of 2/6d. each.

Register your indignation at Lyttelton's action against Guiana in a way that can help the campaign...

**JOIN THE C.L.C. NOW
AND STRENGTHEN THE FIGHT**

Post to the Secretary, Caribbean Labour Congress (L.B.), 3 Robert Street, N.W.1.

I wish to become a member and enclose subscription ofs.d. (5/- per year payable either in full or two sums of 2/6.)

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OLIVER LYTTLETON, Secretary of State for Colonies, told the House of Commons on February, 22nd, that, from October 1952 to the beginning of February this year, 3,399 Africans had been killed in Kenya, 1,380 captured and over 112,000 taken into custody.

It has also been revealed at the court martial of Captain Peter Griffiths, army officer charged with murdering an African, that 5/- reward was offered by some officers for every Mau Mau suspect killed.

Clearly the answer is not in racialist terms "Because Whites hate Blacks", nor in idealistic terms "Whites are civilising Blacks, destroying barbarism".

In this article, Rolly Simms, of the C.L.C. (L.B.), shows that the problem of Kenya is really rooted in the economic structure of the colony—in Imperialism.

What is Behind the Kenya War

THE British Government informs us that the fighting in Kenya is to restore "law and order", so that they can develop the country. Of course Kenya, like all other colonies, needs development. But what the Tories have in mind when they talk about "development" is not what the African or the colonial peoples as a whole mean by development.

A brief look at some of the companies operating in Kenya will explain what the Tories mean. The East African Lands and Development Company best illustrates the Tory point of view. It acquired 310,000 acres of the best Kenya lands from the Crown (how the Crown got it is another matter) in 1920. It then leased and sold this land.

In the four years 1947 to 1950 this company paid a 100% dividend each year, and in 1951 it paid 33½%. In other words any gentleman from the City of London who invested £1,000 in this company would in the five years 1947 to 1951 receive for his "trouble", £4,333 6s. 8d., and still retain the original £1,000 invested.

Imperialists

The "gent" from the City made his profit even though he never went to Kenya and didn't do one stroke of work for the company. Yet his profit must have been worked for by somebody and must have come from somewhere. His profit was made from the Africans in Kenya.

This "gent" and his class export their capital not to help Kenya Africans but to enrich themselves. We call this "gent" and his class imperialists. This is the only accurate political term for them.

Let us take another example: The East African Power and Lighting Co., after paying tax and putting aside a huge sum for depreciation, made a profit of £576,731 in 1951, compared with £506,946 in 1950. Who sits on the board of this company? Until he became Parliamentary Secretary to the Ministry of Education, Mr. Kenneth Pickthorn, Conservative M.P. did. Although he resigned his directorship he still retains his investment holdings and the profits that flow from them.

Kenya's most valuable mineral resource, soda ash, is entirely in the hands of the Magadi Soda Co., a subsidiary of Imperial Chemical Industries. This company, in 1924, secured the 99-year lease of 348 square miles including deposits of natural soda over 30 square miles known as Lake Magadi. The issued capital is £797,027 and its recent dividends have been —220% in 1947-48; 275% 1948-49; 150% 1949-50; 100% 1950/51.

Relatives

Another giant octopus sucking the lifeblood of the Kenya people is the Kantan Gold Areas Co. (issued capital £1,250,000). This is linked with the giant Tanganyika Concessions, which has copper, gold and uranium interests in the Rhodesias, Belgian Congo and elsewhere. The Chairman of Kantan Gold Areas is Earl Grey, Conservative peer and father-in-law of Sir Evelyn Baring.

Who is Sir Evelyn Baring? None other than the present Governor of Kenya!

East African Estates owns 22,643 acres near the coast of Kenya. The Earl of Plymouth, a Conservative Peer, owns 37,110 shares in this company. Viscount Cobham another Conservative Peer, also sits on the board of directors of this company. If Viscount Cobham should need any advice on how to oppress Africans he need not go outside his family.

For the Viscount has a cousin who is none other than the Hon. Oliver Lyttelton, M.P., Secretary of State for Colonies. And just to strengthen this family of exploiters, an uncle, the Hon. R. G. Lyttelton holds another block of 14,108 shares.

Legal Robbery

By declaring the just demands of the Kenya people for their land and elementary democratic rights to be an insurrection, the ruling class was able to launch a vicious attack on the Kenya people. The process of clearing the Highlands of Kenya (the best lands) was ruthlessly carried through, and the thou-

sands of displaced Africans were dumped in the overcrowded reserves without land or any means of existence.

By ROLLY SIMMS

Simultaneously police and army carried out raids on the reserves seizing thousands of cattle, sheep, goats (etc. (Times 2.12.52). Further prohibitive fines have been levied on the people and every form of organisation suppressed.

Thus whether or not imperialism started the Kenya war with the sole purpose of solving the problems faced by the influx of capital into Kenya, it cannot be denied that the war has produced conditions favourable to that large body of capital, i.e., a large propertyless class of people who owing to the fines and taxes they have to pay must look for jobs to earn cash money quickly.

And further, it has destroyed the organisation through which it might have been possible for the Kenya Africans to bargain with the employers for the wages they should receive for work—the Kenya African Union.

Hence this war against the peaceful people of Kenya is nothing but a bloody imperialist war. It is a filthy war which every West Indian organisation should condemn in the strongest terms. Every West Indian can lend support to the people of Kenya by intensifying our own struggle for an Independent West Indies.

Pull that leg!

If we imagine imperialism to be in the shape of a human being, we can see that the people of Kenya have well and truly got hold of one leg. Of course we would be helping if we went to Kenya and helped them to hold that leg.

But it would be much more effective if we got hold of the other leg that is in our country, and together with the Kenya African people toss Imperialism on his neck with a crack that will spell the end of colonial exploitation, the end of the need to wander in search of a job, or education, the end of racial discrimination.

Long live the struggle of the Kenya Africans against British exploiters!

Long live the unity of the West Indian and Kenya people in their joint struggle against British Imperialism!

BRITISH SOLIDARITY WITH GUIANA

Now is the time for anger,
Scorn to burn
The tattered mask of humbug,
Hate to discern
Tongues that wrap truth in slander,
Wit to learn
In days the whole age's essence:
Now is the time for anger.

Actions not words make freedom:
Where's the power—
In ballot box or rifle?
Gone is the hour
Of piecrusts two a penny—
The sugar's sour.
Actions not words make freedom.

Will you join to ours your protest?
Strip from shame
Its blanket of trite excuses,
Fling the blame
In the teeth of those who earned it
And scotch their game?
Join then to ours your protest!

Meg Scully.

UGANDA ELDER SUPPORTS B. H.

DR. MONICA FELTON, a Vice-President of the Women's International Democratic Federation, appeared as Guest Speaker at a public meeting in defence of BRITISH HONDURAS, on Friday, 19th February.

The audience listened attentively to the sincere expression of sympathy and solidarity that Monica Felton felt with the Honduran people.

Against a backdrop of pure African charm and reason, Mr. S. Mulumba, the representative of the Elders of Uganda in London, identified himself and all his people with the common fight for Peace and the right to self-determination. "Today," he said, "British Honduras is joining the ranks of Guiana, Kenya, Malaya and Uganda, as they demand real independence and the freedom to restore democracy."

The meeting was organised by the C.L.C. LONDON BRANCH.

Mr. Rolly Simms was the last speaker, and in his powerful style established himself as one who would be missed in London, as this was his last public appearance prior to returning to Jamaica.

Billy's Corner

★
by Billy Strachan
★



Selling C.N.

LAST Saturday night I promised to meet an old friend at Marble Arch. He had only arrived in the country about three weeks ago. As usual I carried "Caribbean News" along with me, it's second nature now! In true West Indian style we were soon joined by two other boys who were on their rounds of the night haunts.

Shades of yesterday and early youth, I went along. I was broke as usual and thought I'd be a misfit. How soon I knew to the contrary!

An old African friend sighted me between sips of his Pale Ale, steered himself across, with one swift movement pulled a copy of CN from the rolled bundle under my arm, simultaneously producing a shiny new sixpence, his sovereign's stern profile uppermost. And, "How are you?" said he, but before I replied, practically the remainder of the bundle of CNs had gone, and I the richer and a wiser man.

This is the thirst and love our people have for anything West Indian. More and more I see the need for a bigger paper; gossip, yes, that's what some want, sport, well you know what that means to my people, music, art, politics are our life's blood—who can argue?

For a real rich picture, just recall, Lord Beginner at Lords, bottles at Bourda (Guiana), the cash for the cricketers in Trinidad, and the whole is complete in CARIBBEAN NEWS.

It's up to you now!

Adams flees

MY mother always taught me that the path to success, was rugged, hard and narrow. On the contrary the path to perdition was wide smooth and slippery.

Last week a correspondent from Bridgetown, Barbados, told me of the bombastic Grantly Adams and his cronies who fled the House of Assembly when there was an opposition motion led by Mr. W. Crawford, seeking to assure for Cheddi Jagan and Forbes Burnham, safe unmolested passage through Little England.

Must have been some joke. But what an exposure! This was the onetime labour leader who used to bang his drum with pride as a nationalist and proudly proclaim the Federal Caribbean State.

"O mighty Caesar! dost thou lie so low?"

In memory

MR. ANEURIN BEVAN, M.P., opened the Cultural Centre at 3 Robert Street, in the Borough of St. Pancras, London, on February 26th. The funds were raised by Dr. Moody from his West Indian tour just prior to his death.

Sports Comments

TEST ANALYSIS

MOST controversial test series ever to be played in the West Indies has ended in a draw.

West Indies cannot be proud in drawing the series after such a fine start in the first and second tests. The reasons for their poor showing in the third and final tests are surprisingly unexplained after their high batting averages and seeing that England had only just snatched the Ashes from Australia.

The series gave some fine but rather spasmodic cricket. Players on both sides were brilliant at times. Honours on the West Indies side go to Valentine and Ramadhin, who gave a fine display of bowling. Valentine takes the world record for the youngest cricketer to get a hundred wickets in the shortest time.

Walcott and Weekes for their magnificent display in the art of batting. Walcott in particular for his stand in the time of crisis. He shows himself to be the world's best all round cricketer.

Youth Record

Sobers takes another record, being the youngest cricketer (17 years) to bowl a test wicket.

West Indies captaincy was really too cautious, but good. A bolder approach might have brought different results.

On the English side, praise goes to Hutton, who's dogged and hesitating batting saved England from certain defeat.

Statham bowled well. In my opinion he was the most outstandingly consistent bowler for England. Bailey was also largely responsible for taking several good wickets and regaining England's confidence.

I cannot recall, however, any instance in Caribbean Test history when so much bickering, protest and insults were indulged in by a visiting side, and the Press in Britain. I wonder if test cricket is still being played as a sport.

When players of any game behave deplorably on the field, they bring discredit not only to themselves but their country. I sincerely hope that players as in other games would be penalized in future for bad behaviour.

AUSTRALIAN VISIT

The Australians by accepting the invitation to play in the West Indies next summer have shown initiative in maintaining world sportsmanship, despite the chauvinism expressed by some of their leading test cricketers and sports writers.

Not bothering to consider if they should play in the West Indies like England because of "bad umpiring" and "intimidation".

Charles Bray ("Daily Herald"), the most contentious sports writer on the last series, unhesitatingly said that the resentment—verbal and missile—was chiefly due to the shocking manners of the English side.

I sincerely hope that in the next Anglo-West Indian tests the spirit of previous series would be recaptured.

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by

**ELTON
OLLIVIERRE**



BRIEF SPORTS NEWS

The son of Bertie Thompson, quarter mile champion (Trinidad) has got a scholarship from the Trinidad Athletic Association. Bertie Thompson was once holder of the quarter and half mile for eight years.

E. MacDonald Bailey, of Trinidad, has been given an athletic coach job by Bookers Bros. of British Guiana.

JAMAICA TRADE UNION STRUGGLE

IN an effort to intimidate strikers and weaken the strike on major Jamaican sugar estates including Hanover and Siloah, police have raided the office of the Jamaica Federation of Trade Unions and homes of leading officials.

Newly formed J.F.T.U., and its affiliated sugar union S. & A.W.U., have rapidly won majorities on major sugar estates and under the leadership of the S. & A.W.U. workers have been on strike for better pay and conditions.

Arrogant employers refused to negotiate, relying instead on the intimidatory methods of police.

Police have also searched the homes of several individuals including Harry Drayton, member of People's Educational Organisation and biology teacher.

Daphne Campbell, President of Jamaica's Women's Assembly was charged with possessing "subversive publications".

These arrests and police intimidation follow a pattern developing throughout the West Indies against the people's right.

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Watch for further details

WEDDINGS

MARCH has been a wedding month for West Indians in Brixton.

Mr. and Mrs. Clarke were married at the Brixton Parish Church on Saturday, 20th March. Best man was Mr. L. E. Jones, of Pt. Antonio, Jamaica. The bride's father proposed the toast. Mr. Bailey was Master of Ceremonies. The bride is from Kingston and groom from Pt. Antonio. A very enjoyable reception was held at 1 Geneva Road, Brixton.



Mr. Neville Harvey, of Kingston, to **Miss Morlyn Fisher**, of St. Thomas, on 27th March. Best man was Mr. Ralph Simmons and the bridesmaid, Miss Jacqueline Stanley, the bride's cousin. Mr. L. Thomas was Master of Ceremonies, and the Rev. John Cawley, Vicar of St. Matthew's, Brixton, performed the rites. The reception was held at 4 Wiltshire Road.

Mr. Harvey is an engineer and Mrs. Harvey is a nurse. They met at a nurse's dance in London.



Miss Veronica Burke and **Mr. Grant** of St. Thomas. There were three bridesmaids and Lineth Burke, who also made the bride's dress. The bride wore lace over net Victorian Line, and the reception was held at 12 Somerleyton Road. The couple will live in Brixton.

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